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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 25 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 17 and 21 January 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-01563 (E) 260198 260198

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 17-21 January 1998

1. In the northern region 66 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo and Rawanduz.

2. In the southern region 390 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Kut, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Rahhaliyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Lasaf, Hamzah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Maymunah, Taqtaqanah and Ali al-Sharqi.

3. Four violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1200, 1625 and 1632 hours on 16 January 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

5. At 1325 and 1448 hours on 17 January 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.